

MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

24 AUGUST 1982

Lebanon

Election of Al-Jumayyil -- Bashir al-Jumayyil, elected president of Lebanon by the Chamber of Deputies on a second ballot in which he received 57 votes out of 62, will take over from President Ilyas Sarkis on 23 September, Beirut radio noted. After the election, Al-Jumayyil expressed hope that Lebanon will be unified, regain its sovereignty and prosperity and enter a period of peace, safety and reassurance, according to remarks broadcast by Voice of Lebanon radio. He subsequently told journalists that Lebanon will have "normal and cordial relations with all its neighbors" in order to extricate itself from the predicament of having both Israeli and Syrian forces occupying the country, the radio reported. The president-elect expressed confidence that the Lebanese will forget old scores and start over again. According to MA'ARIV, Al-Jumayyil recently revealed that he intends to sign a peace treaty with Israel within 6 to 7 months, though Israel should not in the meantime pressure him to sign a treaty because of the internal hostility among the factions in Lebanon.

Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin sent Al-Jumayyil a message expressing "warm and heartfelt congratulations," THE JERUSALEM POST reported. "Free Lebanon" Commander Maj Sa'd Haddad also congratulated Al-Jumayyil, calling on him to unify Lebanon and make a peace agreement with Israel, according to Voice of Hope radio. On the other hand, Damascus radio said Al-Jumayyil was "forced on the people" under Israeli protection and cited reports that deputies were bribed to vote for him. Reporting a "national and Islamic rejection" of the new president, the clandestine Voice of Palestine radio said a national Islamic conference at the house of former Prime Minister Sa'ib Salam issued a statement warning against the advent of a factional, dictatorial and fascist government.

Egyptian Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali described the election as "a purely internal Lebanese affair" and said Lebanon should be united in order to rebuild itself as an Arab state, according to MENA.

In the aftermath of the election the west Beirut homes of the Chamber of Deputies speaker and three deputies were burned down, Voice of Lebanon radio reported. Lebanese leftist militia opened artillery fire in the southern suburbs of Beirut preventing passage through the Galerie Sim'an crossing, according to AFP.

Israeli-Syrian Clashes -- Israeli-Syrian clashes resumed in central Lebanon early on 24 August, the Voice of Lebanon reported.

PLO Evacuation -- The third group of PLO fighters left Beirut port on a Greek ship for the PDRY, Beirut radio reported. Voice of Lebanon radio said 518 fighters were on board, and Jerusalem radio revealed that the ship could only carry 600 "terrorists." Meanwhile, Nicosia radio reported that 21 jeeps were unloaded in Cyprus from the ship which had left Beirut on 22 August.

PLO Policy -- Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf vowed the Palestinians will continue the fight in "occupied Arab territories," affirming that the lesson learned in Lebanon is that armed struggle is the only way to "liberate Palestine." In an interview with the Lebanese News Agency cited by Damascus radio, Khalaf said the world will soon hear of PLO actions in Israel that will "make Begin's hair stand on end." Palestinian government-in-exile will "soon" be formed in Tunis under the leadership of PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yahir 'Arafat, "reliable sources" indicated to the Kuwaiti paper AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM. According to a source cited by Monte Carlo radio, the Palestine National Council will meet in Tunis during the latter part of September.

The PLO representative in the FRG stated in a DPA interview that he welcomes U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz' remark that the settlement of the Palestinian issue is as urgent as the formation of a strong government in Lebanon. The PLO spokesman said the United States is trying to "correct" its policy, and he stressed that Tunisia is a good choice for a new PLO center because it has not attempted to exploit Palestinians.

Israel

Political sources cited by MA'ARIV expressed concern about a U.S. plan to deal with the Palestinian issue outside the Camp David framework, and rejected the remarks by Secretary of State Shultz calling for concessions on the Palestinian issue and an Israeli withdrawal from the West Bank and Gaza.

Inter-Arab, Islamic Affairs

Arab Summit Conference -- Moroccan King Hassan II invited PLO Chairman 'Arafat to participate in the Arab summit conference, which will convene in Fes on 6 September, Monte Carlo radio reported citing Wafa. Meanwhile, Tunisia submitted a proposal for the summit agenda calling for solving the Palestinian problem on the basis of the UN partition plan of November 1947, KUNA reported.

Islamic Ministers' Conference -- A speech read on behalf of Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal to the Islamic foreign ministers conference in Niger warned that U.S. support for Israel will have a negative effect on American relations with the Islamic world, SPA reported. Given the contradictions in the attitudes of both the United States and the Soviet Union, Al-Faysal said it would be better for the Islamic world to adopt an independent attitude and not rely on any foreign power.

Syria

USSR Delegation Visits -- A Syrian People's Assembly delegation held its first meeting with a visiting USSR Supreme Soviet delegation, Damascus radio reported. The head of the Syrian delegation expressed the Syrians' appreciation for the Soviet aid given in support of the Arab nation; his Soviet counterpart praised the Syrian forces for their bravery and said the Soviet people are following their struggle in Lebanon with "great admiration and appreciation."

Libya's Jallud Meets Al-Asad -- President Hafiz al-Asad met with Libyan Staff Maj 'Abd as-Salam Jallud on 23 August to discuss the Israeli invasion of Lebanon, Damascus radio reported.

Iran

The Supreme Judicial Council issued a circular, carried by Tehran radio, which supported the position taken by Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini that all laws inconsistent with Islamic principles are invalid. The council advised judges to base their decisions on religious laws or decrees if they come across a law that is deemed inconsistent with Islam.



DAILY REPORT

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GANDHI CANCELS SCHEDULED STOPOVER IN SEYCHELLES

BK231620 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 23 Aug 82

[Text] The scheduled technical halt at the Seychelles by Mrs Gandhi on her way back from her visit to Mauritius and Mozambique has been canceled. According to the revised official program, instead of the Seychelles, Mrs Gandhi will now leave Maputo on the morning of the 27th and return to Port Louis for a technical halt in the afternoon. After an hour's halt the prime minister will fly back home and reach New Delhi in the early hours next day.

POLICE ATTACK JOURNALISTS PROTESTING PRESS BILL

BK211605 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 21 Aug 82

[Text] In Patna, 182 journalists were arrested today when a procession was prevented from entering the prohibited area on its way to Raj Bhawan [governor's residence]. According to a police spokesman, nine journalists were injured when policemen tried to stop them near Beni Road crossing. Two magistrates and five policemen also sustained minor injuries.

The procession was taken out this afternoon to protest against the Bihar press bill in response to the call by the journalist action committee. A spokesman of the committee alleged that the journalists were lathi [baton] charged when they wanted to go to Raj Bhawan to hand over a memorandum to the governor against the Bihar press bill.

Meanwhile, nine editors of the Urdu dailies and weeklies had supported the Bihar press bill.

Police Action Criticized

BK220646 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 22 Aug 82

[Text] A number of journalist bodies and leaders have criticized the alleged police lathi charge on the silent procession of journalists in Patna yesterday. However, a police spokesman denied the journalists were lathi charged. He told the United News of India in Patna that police had made a barricade with lathis to stop the journalists from entering prohibited area.

Meanwhile, 11 Bihar legislators have also criticized the alleged incident. All the arrested journalists were later released in the night. Nine editors of Urdu dailies and weeklies have supported the Bihar press bill. In a joint statement, they expressed concern over the growing tendencies of yellow journalism and alleged that some opposition parties are using it to tarnish the image of the government.

Newsman Demand Inquiry

BK230455 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 23 Aug 82

[Text] In Patna, the Bihar working journalists union yesterday took out a silent procession and submitted a memorandum to the state governor demanding a high level inquiry into Saturday's alleged lathi [baton] charge on the journalists. The memorandum also demanded suspension of concerned police officials and payment of compensation to the injured. Working journalists associations of some states have criticized the alleged incident.

As already reported, a police spokesman had denied that the journalists were lathi charged. He said the police had only made barricade with lathis to stop the journalists from entering the prohibited areas. Bihar Chief Minister Dr Jagannath Mishra says vested interests are using the Bihar press bill as a political handwork to intensify the current agitation in the state.

Strike Called

BK231201 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 23 Aug 82

[Text] In Bihar, a 12-hour Patna bundh [strike] began at 0600 this morning. The Bundh has been called by five opposition parties and over half a dozen youth and student organizations to protest against the alleged lathi charge by the police on journalists on Saturday.

Agency reports say private vehicles were off the road and most of the shops remained closed. The police are patrolling different parts of the city to prevent untoward incidents. Police pickets have also been posted at strategic points as a precautionary measure.

WEST BENGAL CHIEF MINISTER RESHUFFLES MINISTRY

BK240403 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 24 Aug 82

[Text] In West Bengal, Chief Minister Jyoti Basu has reshuffled his ministry on the basis of the formula of bifurcation and redistribution of some of the portfolios. The issue of reshuffle had sparked off a controversy in the Communist Party of India-Marxist-dominated nine-party ruling front with all the seven Revolutionary Socialist Party and Forward Bloc minister tendering their resignations on 28 July from the 43-member ministry. The crisis was resolved through long-drawn up negotiations among the front leaders.

PUNJAB CHIEF SAYS PLOT HATCHED IN SIKH TEMPLE

BK240337 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 24 Aug 82

[Text] Punjab Chief Minister Darbara Singh has again appealed to the Shiromani Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee Management [Sikh shrine management committee] to evict the extremists from the Golden Temple at Amritsar.

Speaking to newsmen at Chandigarh yesterday, the chief minister said that according to his information, the attempt on his life on Friday last was part of a conspiracy hatched in the Guru Nanak Niwas [lodging] which is within the precinct of the Golden Temple.

SHEIKH ABDULLAH'S SON SWORN IN AS MINISTER

BK231040 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 23 Aug 82

[Text] In Srinagar, the president of the ruling national conference, Dr Farooq Abdullah [son of Chief Minister Sheikh Abdullah], was today inducted into the Council of Ministers. Jammu and Kashmir Governor B.K. Nehru administered the oath of office and secrecy to Dr Abdullah at Raj Bhavan.

JOINT STAFF COMMUNIQUE 1,025 ON WAR WITH IRAQ

LD231756 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 23 Aug 82

[Communique No 1,025 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. With thanks to the self-sacrificing air force and army aviation pilots who continue their combat operations for the further and quicker annihilation of the Saddamist criminal mercenaries and incessantly and self-sacrificingly, day and night, risk their lives in support of other combatants of Islam.

During the past 24 hours exchanges of artillery and heavy weapons fire continued between the warriors of Islam and the Ba'thist mercenaries of Iraq on all southern and western fronts. On the southern fronts the victorious self-sacrificers of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran continuously identified aggressive Saddamist forces and dispatched patrol groups and tank-hunter teams [shekar-e tank], inflicting losses and casualties on the enemy.

Considerable success was achieved in recent operations by Muslim Kurdish combatants. By performing strike operations and bringing enemy positions and encampments under fire, the self-sacrificers of Islam crushed some enemy positions, destroyed more than 10 weapons emplacements and their crews and captured 1 encampment, killing or capturing about 10 Saddamist personnel and considerable quantities of their weapons and ammunition.

The artillery fire of the ground forces combatants destroyed some enemy tank emplacements, supply points and motor pools in the Zurbatiyah sector and inflicted losses and casualties on the enemy. Enemy losses on the western fronts between Sar-e Pol-e Zahab and Naft-e Shah were six vehicles and a number of emplacements and observation posts destroyed.

During exchanges of fire on the Abadan front the gendarmerie combatants defended their defensive positions and brought enemy positions and Saddamist forces under fire, killing or injuring a number of Iraqi Ba'thist troops and destroying three machinegun and mortar emplacements.

As a result of the criminal Saddamist mercenaries' artillery and long-range weapons fire on Abadan two houses were wrecked, one person was martyred and a number of others were wounded.

The defensive fire of the self-sacrificers of the air force and other antiaircraft units of the Islamic Republic of Iran repelled aerial aggression by the Ba'thist mercenaries of Iraq against the southern and western border regions of the country and forced the aggressive Iraqi planes to flee.

[Signed] The Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

MONTAZERI MESSAGE TO MUSLIMS ON PLO WITHDRAWAL

LD231440 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 23 Aug 82

[Message to Muslims of the world from Ayatollah Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri in Qom -- date not given -- read by announcer]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Why do you not fight for the sake of God and the oppressed men, women and their cities, for those who are saying "O God take us away from this place of tyrants and its inhabitants?" [Koranic verse] To all the Muslim brothers and sisters from Islamic countries, may God assist you. The world of Islam is currently witnessing a big crime committed by America and its accomplices.

The conspiracy of expulsion of Palestinian fighters from the oppressed country of Lebanon following the terrifying aggression of Zionism, the occupation of that country and the massacre of defenseless Muslims, are a warning to Islam and all the Islamic countries. This great conspiracy, which was hatched by America with a Soviet compromise and was implemented by the racist Zionists, is a shameful stain of compromising leaders of reactionary Arab and non-Arab countries. They, by their treacherous silence, encouraged America and Israel to disperse the homeless Palestinians, after all the massacres and crimes they suffered, to countries which are under U.S. hegemony far from Israeli borders. This was carried out contrary to the wish of the world's Muslims and inflicted a blow on the Palestine liberation movement in order to guarantee the security of Israel, this enemy of Islam and the Arab people. If the Islamic countries had taken their armed forces to the battlefield with courage and sincerity on the first days of the Israeli aggression and invasion of Lebanon, and if they had followed the young Islamic Republic of Iran, which did so despite its involvement in the imposed war, and if they had not abandoned the Muslim people of Lebanon, Israel would never have permitted itself to commit a mighty crime against Islam and the Muslims. If the leaders of the Palestinian movement had not become so dependent on the deceitful and reactionary governments and the promises of the Eastern blocs, and if instead they had established religious and ideological links with Muslim nations, today they would not have fallen victim to conspiracies of the same treacherous governments and enemies posing as friends.

Responsible authorities in the Palestinian movement should know that as long as they keep their distance from Muslim people, as long as they entangle themselves in the political games of the East and the West, and as long as they are not using Islam as an essential ideology and base for their struggle, then the fate of the oppressed nation of Palestine will not improve. It is a pity that the leaders of the movement are ignorant of the wonderful power of divine revelation and reliance upon the Muslim masses, which are the source of all capabilities.

The experience gained from about 30 years of the occupation of Palestine proved that governments do not want and are not able to liberate Palestine and the first qebelah [prayer direction] of Islam. The nations must be mobilized for a destiny of war against international Zionism, this enemy of Islam and the Arabs. Why are the Muslim nations not inspired by the living and historic experience of the Muslim and heroic nation of Iran? The Islamic revolution of Iran will be the best pattern for the world's liberation movements to follow. The responsible authorities should place the experiences, ideological and cultural gains of this revolution at the disposal of the world's oppressed.

If the Muslim nations wake up and concentrate on their pure Islamic personality, if they give up hope for the East and West and rely on the power of Islamic ideology and people alone, the Western and Eastern colonialists will never be able to continue exploiting and dominating them. How long are Islamic countries, with the spiritual power of Islam and the economic power of oil and other mundane resources -- to which the jugular vein of the United States and Europe is linked -- going to remain so divided and so abject vis-a-vis the enemies of Islam? And how long are they going to remain indifferent regarding all this vile behavior and crime committed against Islam and its activities?

The Muslim people of Lebanon should know that with the expulsion of the Palestinian combatants, their duty is heavier than ever before; and if they remain silent or, God forbid, are pleased regarding this aggression, then they share in all the oppression and crimes committed by Israel. The Muslim and zealous youth and the learned ulema and clergy of Lebanon should continue their steadfastness with everything in their power, and they should not allow this anti-Islamic government, which is a collaborator of the Zionists, to come to power [presumably referring to a Phalangist Presidency]. Death with honor is better than life in misery and shame.

The compromising Arab states, these traitors who betray the sacred aspiration of Islam and the Arabs, should realize that as the great leader of the revolution, Imam Khomeyni -- may his lofty shadow continue -- has said that by tolerating this shameful situation, Israel will eventually pursue them all and will have no mercy upon them young or old. How long will they remain at the disposal of the United States and Israel as slaves? How long will they continue to take orders daily to take part in Camp David, Fes and other colonial accords and conferences?

The tragedy of Lebanon and Palestine was a great divine test for states and nations. History will curse and damn those governments which remained silent and indifferent or supported the oppressors in committing this large crime. In Friday prayer sermons in Islamic countries and during the great hajj ceremonies and other Islamic ceremonies, these crimes and their main perpetrators, that is, the superpowers and United States in particular, must be exposed. Muslims should show their disgust and hatred with every possible means regarding the events in the world of Islam, particularly in the oppressed Lebanon and steadfast Afghanistan, they should think about resorting to a struggle against what is happening. They should know that as long as the fate of the Islamic countries is in the hands of such reactionary and hireling leaders, these leaders will not bring anything to Islam and the Muslims except shame and misery. May God save the Islamic countries from the evil of the Eastern and Western superpowers and their treacherous agents. May God grant more progress and awareness to the Muslims to unite with unity of word and courage and rise to carry out their great duties for God and conscience. May God's peace and mercy be upon all Muslims.

[Signed] Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri

HASHEMI-RAFSANJANI COMMENTS ON INDIA VISIT

LD201942 Tehran IRNA in English 1715 GMT 20 Aug 82

[Excerpt] Tehran, Aug 20, IRNA -- Majlis Speaker and temporary Friday prayers leader of Tehran Hujjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani said here today that during his visit to India he had found the Indian Muslims to be as much concerned about the Islamic revolution in Iran as were ardent supporters of the revolution at home.

He noted also that the Iranian consultates and embassies in India been approached by a great many Indian Muslims who demanded entry visa to Iran in order that they might fight alongside with Iranian combatants against the Iraqi invaders, and were exceedingly dismayed by the refusal of Iranian embassies to grant them entry visas to Iran for the purpose.

He referred to the Hindu Muslims as "being ever more enthusiastic" about the Islamic revolution than were the Iranian people and said Iran and India were two "natural allies" potentially "capable of turning the table in the region in the interest of the deprived masses."

He noted also that during his visit to India a small group of about 30 to 35 from among the counterrevolutionary Iranians who had fled to India during and after the culmination of the Islamic revolution, had tried to stage a demonstration somewhere in India carrying placards in denunciation of the talks of the Iranian delegation with Indian officials, but that they had turned tail immediately upon arrival to the place of another group of [word indistinct] Muslim students.

The Hojjat ol-Eslam commended the efforts of the people of India in ridding themselves from the yoke of imperialism, but noted that he had suggested to the Indians that it was time they "de-Britanicised" themselves in keeping with their spirit of independence.

The Hojjat ol-Eslam was apparently referring to the domination of the English language and perhaps to traits of British costumes in India. Hashemi-Rafsanjani was speaking to thousands of the people of Tehran at Tehran University campus minutes before the Friday mass prayers here.

COUNCIL OF GUARDIANS CRITIQUES RETRIBUTION BILL

LD212026 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 21 Aug 82

[Text] According to the Central News Unit, the Council of Guardians met this morning to discuss aspects of the retribution bill. The council informed the Islamic Consultative Assembly of sections of the bill which the council considers to be contradictory and inconsistent with the religious law and the Constitution.

JUDICIAL COUNCIL CIRCULAR ON UNRELIGIOUS LAW

LD231332 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 23 Aug 82

[Text] According to the Central News Unit, following remarks made yesterday by the imam concerning abolishing the previous regime's unreligious laws, an important circular was released today by the Supreme Judicial Council of the Islamic Republic of Iran. The circular is addressed to all the Justice Ministry's prosecutor offices and tribunals throughout the country. The text of the circular is as follows:

In His exalted name. For the attention of all prosecutor offices and tribunals of the Justice Ministry, branches of the Supreme Court and judges of disciplinary tribunals throughout the country:

His eminence the imam, may his shadow be everlasting, in his important and historical remarks on 22 August, said: "On the basis of the Islamic revolution in Iran's Constitution, and the amended articles of the previous regime's Constitution, all laws and regulations which are considered to be inconsistent with Islamic principles are no longer valid.

Therefore, on the basis of the directive issued by the majestic rank of velayat-e faqih, the Supreme Judicial Council announces the following:

1. All previous laws which are considered to be inconsistent with Islam are hereby declared null and void.
2. The esteemed judges of the country's prosecutor offices, tribunals and courts are dutybound not to adhere to those laws as the basis of their proceedings, and the Supreme Judicial Council's judges should no longer adhere to these laws as the basis for either upholding verdicts or accepting appeals. The judges disciplinary tribunals should try and punish -- on the basis of religious laws -- any judge who disregards this directive and continues to base his judgment in accordance with the abolished laws and regulations.

3. The esteemed judges are dutybound to give their judgment on the basis of valid religious laws or valid and established religious decrees in cases where they come across points of law which they consider to be inconsistent with Islamic principles. They should continue to proceed in this manner until new acts approved by the Majlis are communicated to them. The Supreme Judicial Council requests the Islamic Consultative Assembly and the Council of Guardians -- in order to bring coordination and discipline to the prosecutor offices and tribunal proceedings -- to proceed as soon as possible and within 10 days to approve the bills which were prepared by the Supreme Judicial Council on the basis of Islamic principles and which were presented to the Majlis in mid-June this year. The Consultative Assembly and Council of Guardians are requested to communicate their decisions to the Supreme Judicial Council, so this council can in return communicate them to the Justice Ministry's departments throughout the country and have them as the basis for judgments.

4. In cases where the esteemed judges are in doubt while trying to make previous laws correspond with Islamic principles, they should refer the issue to the Council of Guardians, the official and legal body, to rule if a law is consistent with Islamic principles.

5. In cases where the laws are against Islamic principles and the esteemed judges are not aware of the Islamic ruling, they should refer their question to either the Supreme Judicial Council or the imam's bureau of inquiries [name as heard], may his shadow last forever, and base their Islamic ruling on the basis of answers they receive from either source.

Publication of this circular in the mass media makes it official and no excuse for disregarding it will be accepted.

[Signed] The Supreme Judicial Council of the Islamic Republic of Iran

OFFICIAL REPORTS TRANSPORTATION TALKS WITH USSR

LD221940 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 22 Aug 82

[Text] According to IRNA, this morning the undersecretary for transportation at the Ministry of Roads and Transportation explained the results of a recent visit to the Soviet Union by an Iranian delegation. He said the purpose of the visit was to participate in the Iranian-Soviet economic cooperation commission and to have talks on current problems and issues pertaining to transportation between the two countries. He added that another topic discussed with Soviet officials concerned railroads and the difficulties arising from freight handling by railroads.

Regarding Iranian shipping in the Caspian Sea, the undersecretary said that in detailed discussions held with Soviet officials we stated that Iranian shipping in the Caspian Sea, about which several years' of talks between the two countries have come to nothing, is of interest to Iran. He said the only way in which we can increase the volume of our exchange with the Soviet Union is for our ships to carry at least 50 percent of the goods coming to or leaving Iran.

Continuing his remarks, the undersecretary said that after detailed discussions with the first deputy minister at the Soviet Ministry of Shipping and with members of the permanent committee of the Iranian-Soviet Commission for Economic Cooperation, it was agreed that Iran's proposals should be sent to the Soviet Union in writing within 2 months. It was also agreed that during the coming winter Iranian and Soviet experts should hold meetings in Tehran and Moscow to prepare the final draft of the proposals.

In conclusion, the undersecretary referred to the Iranian delegation's participation in Friday prayers in Moscow and added that Moscow Muslims expressed intense affection for Imam Khomeyni and wanted Iranian religious books and photographs. At the same time, that country's Muslims strongly denounced the crimes committed in Lebanon by Zionist forces.

LEADER OF NEW LIBERATION FRONT INTERVIEWED

PM201313 Rome AVANTI! in Italian 17 Aug 82 pp 8-9

[Interview with Ali Amini, leader of the Front for the Liberation of Iran, by Fawzia Mascheroni — date and place not given]

[Excerpt] Ali Amini, who was born in Tehran 77 years ago, is not a new face to international observers. A Paris graduate in economics, he is remembered as one of the protagonists of Iranian political life after Mohammad Reza Pahlavi came to the throne. He was a minister several times, under Mossadeq, too, and was Iranian ambassador to Washington between 1956 and 1958. He was prime minister in 1961 and then retired into private life following — he says — "some differences with the late shah, mainly over the arms race." But in September 1978 he returned to politics, giving LE MONDE a sensational interview in which he called for the monarch's abdication. Today Amini describes Khomeyni's regime as "religious fascism."

It is a regime which, he adds, is committing suicide like any other fascist regime, aggravating its anachronistic nature, its model of a society which, in the contemporary world, is to be administered by the methods of the 6th and 7th centuries. For that reason it cannot evolve; and to conceal the blind alley it resorts every day to the most diverse pretexts to stir up the hysteria of war against atheism, a "holy war" which is to create an Islamic empire.... This is precisely its Achilles heel, the seed of its destruction. And after 3 years even the majority of the Iranian population has noticed that weakness. There will certainly be suitable opportunities for exploiting it and they must be used in an intelligent way.

[Question] Dr Amini, do you think internal resistance is enough to defeat Khomeynism? Or is it necessary to seek some kind of support from foreign countries?

[Answer] The experience of the past 3 years and the defeat of the armed resistance or of some "semi-coups" show that no initiative aimed at overthrowing the Islamic Republic can succeed until it has the support of the majority of the population. And the population, who have now been reduced to silence, but are full of bitterness, will undoubtedly support actions based on their demands. Then we will obtain results. The task of the front for the Liberation of Iran [FLI] is to start a series of armed initiatives which, however, are inspired by the demands of the majority of the average members of the Iranian population. We do not agree with the idea of a direct intervention by some foreign force. Look at the case of Poland where the resistance is being repressed by the government with the help of a foreign force; public opinion in the free world is now giving wide support to the Polish people. In Iran the repression is much harsher than in Poland; it is our duty to inform public opinion and democrats throughout the world about that in order to win support. The news of that support which, through radio, overcomes the barriers of censorship and reaches the population and the Iranian Army, gives them new hope and prompts them to take action.

[Question] So far, however, the main weakness of the Iranian opposition has been its fragmentation, the lack of unity among the various groups.

[Answer] The FLI was formed precisely to coordinate it in close connection with the country's internal developments. It has never been an easy task; Khomeyni, with his great demagogic ability, was able to sway the masses and liquidate any element which was not consistent with the religious fundamentalist ideology. His unexpected success, obtained through deceit, produced astonishment and a sense of defeat in the whole opposition, causing it to split into opposing groups, ready to accuse one another of having favored the defeat. The FLI undertook the job of making an accurate analysis of the internal opposition and inviting the various groups to cooperate with a joint coordinating body. First it established bilateral contacts with each organization, establishing that the prime objective was to save the people of the country while respecting pluralism. Finally, at the recent Paris conference, it succeeded in bringing the various groups together round the same table in an atmosphere of tolerance.

[Question] However, many opposition forces (the Mojahedin, Bani-Sadr) have not joined the front.

[Answer] Of course the unity of all the political forces is not the same as the existence of a single political force's opinion. The FLI coordinates the majority of the opposition groups. Its doors are open to all the national forces; within it no faction dominates the others. It is still possible to identify an area of agreement with the groups which do not belong to the FLI: opposition to the fascism of the mullahs' regime. Thus it is possible to reach a compromise.

[Question] Once the Khomeyni power system has collapsed and "until the Iranian population has made a decision on the future government system" the front's official program makes provision for a transition period administered by a council and by a "strong government" inspired by the council itself, "capable of guaranteeing the nation's continuity, its internal security, and its territorial integrity, and reorganizing the security forces and the regular army."

[Answer] In that way it will be possible to guarantee the population's human rights. In fact, we follow the 1906 Iranian Constitution and the world Human Rights Charter which Iran ratified a long time ago. As an initial step the government will have to decree a general amnesty and allow the judiciary, which has been annihilated by the Islamic courts, to administer justice. The population must enjoy basic rights, including the right to defense guarantee.

[Question] Has the front also drawn up a strategy for economic policy?

[Answer] We know that freedom and respect for democratic principles were the requests put forward by the Iranian middle classes. And the FLI is based on that class, which was the mainstay of the revolution but which religious fascism repressed and ostracized. Its economic demands are reasonable and legitimate and the new government, after consolidating internal security, will have to take account of them. In view of the demographic situation and the country's wealth of natural resources, the majority of the Iranian population can readily attain a comfortable standard of living.

[Question] What immediate initiatives would the new government take in the economic sector?

[Answer] Maintaining the nationalization of key industries; passing just fiscal laws; controlling the quantity and quality of income; preventing the unlimited concentration of wealth in a few hands; encouraging citizens to exploit their own talents in the economic and social sectors; encouraging the formation of trade unions, class opinions and the creation of cooperatives; calling on the tens of thousands of doctors, engineers and technicians forced to flee Iran by religious fascism to return to the homeland. It will be necessary to draw up intensive programs and work day and night to rebuild what the war has destroyed and set the country's economy in motion.

[Question] Coexistence with the Kurdish, Turkoman and Baluchi minorities is also a delicate and fundamental question....

[Answer] The provisional government will have to prevent the bureaucratic system from being concentrated solely in the capital, in Tehran. It will be necessary to give the various regions the necessary power to administer their own internal affairs, such as health, culture and local administration. That is another reason why we are referring to the 1906 Constitution. In addition it goes without saying that the government programs will include recognition of equality between men and women in social and political life.

[Question] The 1906 Constitution, to which the front likes to refer and which was the fruit of a short but intense progressive revolution in Iran at the turn of the century, makes provision for the classical institutions of a constitutional monarchy. But it was immediately repealed by the Qajar dynasty and was subsequently never applied again. It is undeniable that many sections of the Iranian population today still have an unfavorable picture of the period under the monarchy. Dr Amini, do you not think this might cause some difficulties for those prominent members of the front who had political posts during Mohammad Reza Pahlavi's regime?

[Answer] The front's official charter provides for a general amnesty; only those who have played a direct role in corruption or crime will be placed on trial according to international conventions. In no country can the whole population be accused of working and living under a particular regime. In order to found a healthy society we intend to use the talents of all those who did not collaborate directly in setting up a system of corruption and crime.

[Question] But in any case which mistakes made by Pahlavi would you like to avoid repeating?

[Answer] It is necessary to prevent the launching of economic programs whose spectacular appearance is greater than the practical results. Priority will have to be given to the population's general needs, particular importance must be given to the people's participation in political, economic and social life. The government institutions must have maximum respect for the law of the state. And it is vital to prevent any interference in the judiciary's activity. Finally, I would like to recall that corruption in the bureaucracy generates discontent and indifference in all those working in the sector.

[Question] What role should Iran play in the international context?

[Answer] Today Iran is isolated. After the fall of this regime it will be necessary to have reciprocal respect for international rights; to create friendly relations, based on national interests, with the East and the West; to support the policy of nonalignment and establish cordial relations with Muslim and Arab countries.

Stability in the Persian countries and Iran in the economic, cultural and political spheres are extremely important. Therefore, the government will have to establish a close and cordial relationship of understanding with its neighbors. As regards the nonaligned countries, while supporting their objectives, Iran should draw up an independent policy which guarantees its national interests in view of its particular geographical location.

ASHRAF DEHQAN MINIGROUP MEMBERS ARRESTED

GF221532 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 1 Aug 82 p 4

[By JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI correspondent]

[Text] Osku -- With the help of the 36 million-strong intelligence network and the continuous efforts of the Islamic Revolution Guards of Osku, two members of the Ashraf Dehqan minigroup, who were refugees in the city of Osku for the past 3 months, were arrested last Wednesday in the city of Zanjan and sent to the Islamic Revolution Prosecutor's Office in Tabriz.

CLANDESTINE: HIGH-RANKING ARMYMAN ATTACKED

GF170404 (Clandestine) Free Voice of Iran in Persian to Iran 1500 GMT 16 Aug 82

[Text] The mullahs regime has remained silent about the assassination attempt which resulted in the arm of a high-ranking army official of the regime being cut off. Two unnamed fighters [words indistinct] which ended with the arm of this army officer being cut off at the shoulder. The mullahs regime has not yet issued any details about the incident.

Our correspondent in Tehran was able to discover that the person involved was one of the military commanders who was removed from his post during the former regime for antinationalist opinions. He became a servant of the Islamic regime following Khomeyni's capture of power. It is said that the mullahs regime immediately sent this military official to the FRG so his arm could be reattached by surgery.

According to our correspondent, one of the armed fighters was killed by the guards of this official and the other committed suicide by taking a cyanide pill. Kuwait radio was the first non-Iranian radio to carry a short report about this event.

Our correspondents' efforts to learn the name and also the condition of this high-ranking regime military official continue.

RADIO IRAN ON SEYYAD-SHIRAZI-CLERGY DIFFERENCES

GF211556 (Clandestine) Radio Iran in Persian to Iran 1330 GMT 22 Aug 82

[Text] According to reports received from reliable sources intense differences have surfaced between Colonel Seyyad-Shirazi, commander of the ground forces, and the pseudoclergymen on the issue of prolonging the Iran-Iraq war.

Last week, Colonel Seyyad-Shirazi decided to submit his resignation and announced that since the army is in need of a complete shake up and due to a shortage of necessary equipment, [word indistinct] he was not in favor of prolonging the war or intensifying it. As a (?result) of these remarks the hojjatiyeh faction which is very powerful has insisted on the dismissal of some ministers, including Ma'adikhah, and has now begun to conspire against the commander of the ground forces and is busy plotting his ouster.

CLANDESTINE REPORTS 80 GUARDS KILLED BY KURDS

GF181822 (Clandestine) Free Voice of Iran in Persian to Iran 1500 GMT 17 Aug 82

[Text] According to a report sent by news agencies from Kordistan, the peshmarga members of the Rastgari force, in a fight with the guards of the Khomeyni regime in (Owramanat) managed to capture the (?Tapeh) hill in this zone and kill 80 guards. Radio Marivan in its program yesterday confessed to the clash of the Kurdish peshmarga with the guards.

PEYKAR MEMBER EXECUTED IN BANDAR 'ABBAS

GF181430 Bandar 'Abbas Domestic Service in Persian 1330 GMT 18 Aug 82

[Text] The Public Relations Department of Hormozgan Islamic Revolution Prosecutor's Office announced: According to a verdict by Hormozgan Islamic Revolution Court, Ahmad Tavvakoli, son of Gholam, was sentenced to execution for membership in and direct cooperation with the organization of the war-waging and banished Feykar minigroup. The sentence was carried out this morning.

AFGHAN MUSLIMS KILL 40 SOVIET, STATE FORCES

LD211908 Tehran IRNA in English 1604 GMT 21 Aug 82

[Text] Zahedan, Aug 21 IRNA -- The Afghan Muslim mujahdin killed last week some 40 Soviet and state forces in (Jamal Ghazi) region, a district of [word indistinct] governorship in Herat Province, by planting mines on the way of the occupier forces.

During this 48 hour clash, some 3 Soviet tanks and one personnel carrier were destroyed while a large amount of war equipment (?was seized)

Attack in Shindand Governorate

LD201308 Tehran IRNA in English 0929 GMT 20 Aug 82

[Text] Mashhad, Aug 19, IRNA -- Some 12 of the joint Afghanistan state and Soviet forces were killed and two Soviet tanks were destroyed early this week in an attack launched by Afghan Muslim mujahideen in Shindand's governorate.

During this attack ten undamaged pieces of Soviet weaponry were taken as booty by the Afghan mujahideen. One mujahideen was martyred.

IRAQI REVOLUTIONARIES ON ANTIREGIME OPERATIONS

GF160618 Tehran International Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 15 Aug 82

[Excerpts] In a telephone call to IRNA, a spokesman for the Muslim Iraqi revolutionaries announced that as a result of the huge explosion which took place in the Iraqi Interior Ministry, the third floor of the ministry, which was occupied by members of the Iraqi military committee, collapsed. The spokesman added that this committee, which is associated with the Iraqi intelligence department, was in charge of secret documents concerning military purchases from France in addition to documents dealing with those opposed to the revolution who have fled, plotters against the Islamic revolution in Paris, and the [word indistinct] of the Iraqi strugglers. It added that seven members of the military committee, including the Iraqi ambassador in Paris, were killed. Their bodies were removed from the debris.

Quoting Iraqi revolutionaries in Paris, it said the Iraqi losses in this explosion are estimated at 2 million French francs.

Meanwhile, the Central News Unit reports that the Iraqi Muslim revolutionaries, continuing their struggle against Saddam's Ba'thist regime, have attacked a Saddamist military vehicle on the outskirts of (Bahabad), setting the vehicle ablaze and killing a number of military men. [Words indistinct] the Iraqi Muslim revolutionaries issued a statement expressing willingness to continue their struggle until Saddam, the U.S.-Zionist agent, is toppled. The statement added that the strugglers attacked a police station in An-Nasiriyah area killing a mercenary Ba'thist and wounding four others. [passage indistinct]

BRIEFS

JAPANESE BANK SELLS SHARES -- IRNA, quoting Tokyo Bank circles, reports that shareholders in the Japanese Overseas Investment Bank recently sold their foreign shares to the Iranian Mellat and Tejarat Banks. The Japanese bank was established 3 years before the victory of Islamic revolution with shareholders from Europe, Japan and America as well as Iran's Melli Bank and the Mining and Industrial Development Bank. The bank is now fully run by the Islamic Republic of Iran. It has also been agreed that foreign banks should continue to keep their deposits in this bank. This shows the bank's reliability. [Text] [Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 18 Aug 82 LD]

ENERGY COUNCIL MEETS -- Tehran, Aug 18, IRNA -- A second session of the State Energy Council was held today to discuss the duties of the council. Present in the session were Prime Minister Musavi, and Ministers of Energy Dr Ghafuri-Fard, of Industries Hashemi, of Mines and Metals Musaviyani, of Economics and Finance Namazi, and Deputy Prime Minister in charge of the organization for the environment protection Mirza [name indistinct] as well as Deputy Oil Minister Musa Khayer. The council approved a list of future projects which include a study into the present status of the country's energy, energy sources and their geographical distribution, energy prospects for the country, as well as prospects for generation and application of new energies. Meanwhile, the minister of energy was commissioned to ensure the fulfillment of the projects. [Text] [Tehran IRNA in English 1950 GMT 18 Aug 82 LD]

ALGERIAN ENVOY DEPARTS -- According to the Central News Unit, Algerian ambassador to Iran, Abdelkrim Ghraieb met with Prime Minister Mir-Hoseyn Musavi today for a farewell visit. Mr Ghraieb emphasized the need for more contacts and communication between the officials of the two countries, and referred to Mr Musavi's visit to Algeria as very effective and useful. The prime minister wished Mr Ghraieb success in his new mission and said that our relations with Algeria are very important. [Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 18 Aug 82 LD]

NEW TELEVISION TRANSMITTERS -- According to the Central News Unit, with the help of the network expansion and engineering unit and the staff of the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran two new television transmitters have started operation in Baluchestan region. One of the transmitters is located in Khash, covering Kahnuj, Dehpa'in, Eslamabad and Nikabad. Another transmitter has also been earmarked to cover Qasr-e Qand, Chahbahar region, the installation and operational aspects of which are nearing completion. [Text] [Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 22 Aug 82 LD]